

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Forest Department - Transfer of lease from Army to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for 5360.11 Ha of forest land from the 6975.39 hectares of forest land involving 1322.88 hectares in Ranga Reddy District and 5652.51 hectares in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh, for Rajkonda Field Firing Range (RFFR) - Permission accorded - Orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (FOR.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O Ms. No. 104

**Dated:29-11-2013.
Read the following:-**

1. From PCCF, A.P, Hyderabad, Lr.Rc.No.60064/2006-F1, dt.25-6-2007.
2. State Govt. Lr.No.4944/For.I (1)/2007, dt:3-7-2007.
3. From GoI, MoEF, Lr.No.8-54/2007-FC, dt. 22-8-2008.
4. From GoI, Ministry of Defence, D.O No.H-62024/7/2010-D(BDL), dt. 16-11-2010.
5. From GoI, MoEF, Lr.No.8-54/2007-FC, dt. 15-11-2011
6. State Govt. letter No. 4944/FOR.I (1)/2007, dt. 31-1-2012.
7. From GoI, MoEF, Lr.No.8-54/2007-FC, dt. 21-8-2013.

ORDER:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad in his letter 1st read above, has submitted a proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 16837 .26 Acres (13633.26 Acres in Nalgonda & 3204.68 Acres in Ranga Reddy District) of forest land for Rachakonda Field Firing Ranges in favour of Lt. Col., Offg. Col GS, For CDR., HO, Andhra Sub Area, Secunderabad, and requested to forward the same to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, for according necessary approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. The said proposal was sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, for their approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide State Government letter 2nd read above.

3. The Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, vide their letter 3rd read above, have accorded their approval in-principle (Stage-I) under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 6975.39 ha of forest land, in favour of Indian Army for Rajkonda Field Firing Range (FFR), involving 1322.88 hectares in Ranga Reddy District and 5652.51 hectares in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh, subject to compliance of certain conditions as stipulated therein.

4. The Government of India, Ministry of Defence, in their letter 4th read above, have informed that Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) is authorized to file requisition for issue of notification for Rachakonda Field Firing Range (RFFR) to acquire necessary land and there is no objection to the change of user agency from Army to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). Accordingly, the State Government vide letter dated. 5-3-2011 have informed the same to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests.

5. The Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, in their letter 5th read above, have agrees in-principle approval, for transfer of lease from Army to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for 5360.11 Ha of forest land from the 6975.39 hectares of forest land involving 1322.88 hectares in Ranga Reddy District and 5652.51 hectares in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh, subject to compliance of certain conditions as stipulated therein.

P.T.O.

6. State Government vide letter 6th read above, have furnished the compliance report on the conditions stipulated by the Government of India, MoEF, while according in-principle (Stage.I) approval. The State Government vide further letters dated.3-7-2012 & 8-4-2013 have furnished certain additional information as desired by the GoI, MoEF.

7. Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, in their letter 7th read above, have accorded their approval U/s 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for transfer of lease from Army to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for 5360.11 Ha of forest land from the 6975.39 hectares of forest land involving 1322.88 hectares in Ranga Reddy District and 5652.51 hectares in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh, for Rajkonda Field Firing Range (FFR), subject to certain conditions as stipulated therein.

8. Government after careful examination of the proposal, hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, for transfer of lease from Army to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for 5360.11 Ha of forest land from the 6975.39 hectares of forest land involving 1322.88 hectares in Ranga Reddy District and 5652.51 hectares in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh, for Rajkonda Field Firing Range (RFFR), subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- (ii) The State Government shall undertake compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land equivalent to the area of forest land located within the area notified as impact zone of the said Field Firing Range (FFR) from funds realized from the user agency.
- (iii) State Government shall realise additional amount of NPV, if so determined as per the final decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- (iv) Prior approval from concerned Divisional Forest Officer should be taken every time before undertaking firing exercises.
- (v) No firing should be allowed between 1st April to 15th July.
- (vi) Any other condition that the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Central), Regional Officer, Bangalore or the State Forest Department may impose from time to time for protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area, shall also be applicable.
- (vii) State Government shall within six months submit a copy of the notification issued by competent authority in the State Government clearly indicating that the area of the impact zone of the said FFR is fifty (50) hectares, along with a Survey of India (SoI) topo sheet, duly authenticated by competent authority in the State Government and the user agency, clearly indicating boundary of the said FFR and its impact zone. In case a copy of such notification issued by the State Government is not received by the MoEF, within six months, the approval will lapse.
- (viii) State Government shall submit an annual report on compliance to conditions stipulated in this approval to concerned Regional Office of this Ministry and the State Government.

- (ix) All other conditions under different rules, regulations and guidelines shall be complied with before transfer of forest land.

9. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad is directed to take further necessary action in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

M. SAMUEL,
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

Copy to:

The Inspector General of Forests,
Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Regional Office (Southern Zone) Kendriya Sadan, IV Floor E & F Wings,
17th Main Road, II Block, Koramangala, BANGALORE -560 034.

The Managing Director, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
SF/SC

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER